

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 SS-15 NSC-05 SCA-01 L-03 DHA-02

IO-11 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

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APPROVED BY EUR:AAHARTMAN

H: MR. JENKINS

D:SPENDLETON

S/S - MR. SHANKLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 037494

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: EEWT, PFOR, CVIS, RO

SUBJECT: GLIGA VISIT: DISCUSSIONS OF EMIGRATION

1. EMIGRATION WAS RAISED WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER GLIGA BY DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL, BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN, BY AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY AND BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY JENKINS. ALL MADE THE POINT THAT US HAD BEEN VERY PLEASED AT SUCCESS LAST SUMMER IN STEERING THE US-ROMANIAN TRADE AGREEMENT THROUGH THE CONGRESS. WE SHARE A COMMON OBJECTIVE WITH THE GOR IN SEEKING REAFFIRMATION OF THE AGREEMENT WHEN IT AGAIN COMES BEFORE THE CONGRESS FOR REVIEW IN JUNE. IT WAS POINTED OUT TO GLIGA THAT CONGRESS WILL CERTAINLY SCRUTINIZE THE EMIGRATION PICTURE THIS SUMMER WITH AS MUCH CARE AS LAST. WE HAD BEEN GRATIFIED TO NOTE THE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN EMIGRATION IN THE MONTHS OF JULY THROUGH OCTOBER, 1975. HOWEVER, A
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DECLINE IN EMIGRATION BOTH TO THE US AND ISRAEL IN NOVEMBER

AND SINCE IS CAUSING CONCERN HERE.

2. AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY MENTIONED RECENT EXPRESSIONS OF CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN FROM SENATOR JACKSON, SENATOR PACKWOOD AND CONGRESSMAN VANIK IN THIS REGARD. THE LATTER TWO HAVE BEEN SUPPORTERS OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY IN

SEEKING MFN FOR ROMANIA. WE KNOW THERE MUST BE SOME MONTHLY VARIATIONS IN THE FLOW, AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT SOME JEWS IN ROMANIA MAY NOT WISH TO EMIGRATE. HOWEVER REPORTS OF DIFFICULTIES RECENTLY ENCOUNTERED IN APPLYING FOR DEPARTURE APPROVALS PLUS THE DECLINE IN THE MONTHLY FIGURES SINCE NOVEMBER WORRY US, AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY SAID. MR. INGERSOLL STRESSED THAT WE HOPE THAT THE MONTHLY RATE WILL REGAIN LEVELS OF JULY-OCTOBER WELL BEFORE THE AGREEMENT COMES BEFORE THE CONGRESS.

3. GLIGA RESPONDED WITH EXPRESSIONS OF APPRECIATION FOR AMERICAN FRANKNESS IN THIS MATTER. HE ASSURED US INTER-LOCUTORS THAT GOR POLICY "TO RESOLVE HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS IN THE SPIRIT OF THE DECEMBER 5, 1973 JOINT DECLARATION" AND AS EXPRESSED IN DISCUSSIONS SINCE HAS NOT AND WILL NOT CHANGE. HE OBSERVED THAT ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUSTMENTS IN ROMANIAN BUREAUCRACY MIGHT ACCOUNT FOR SOME FLUCTUATION IN THE MONTHLY FIGURES.

4. GLIGA MENTIONED FIGURE OF 1600 DEPARTURES FOR THE US IN 1975. AS EMBASSY IS AWARE, 849 IV'S WERE ISSUED IN BUCHAREST IN 1975 AND 41 PERSONS PROCESSED AS TCP'S, FOR A TOTAL OF 890 DEPARTURES FOR US IN 1975. WHEN THIS WAS MENTIONED TO GLIGA, HE SAID HE WOULD INSTRUCT MFA TO REVIEW THE FIGURES WITH THE EMBASSY IN AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE APPARENT INCONSISTENCY. WE PROVIDED GLIGA WITH THE STATISTICAL TABLES ON EMIGRATION BY MONTH FOR 1975 (PLUS FOR JANUARY 1976) AND THE FIGURES ON EMIGRATION TO THE US SINCE 1965 WHICH WERE ENCLOSURES 1 AND 2 IN MR. HARTMAN'S JANUARY 30 LETTER TO CONGRESSMAN GREEN.

5. IN CLOSING, GLIGA NOTED THAT AMBASSADOR BOGDAN WOULD BE RETURNING TO BUCHAREST THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 16 AND HE
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WOULD RETURN TO WASHINGTON WITH A BREAKDOWN OF THE 1600 FIGURE, WHICH GLIGA ACKNOWLEDGED MIGHT INCLUDE DEPARTURE APPROVALS AND TEMPORARY VISITORS IN ADDITION TO ACTUAL EMIGRANTS. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JEWS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, EMIGRANTS, TRADE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE037494
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TPHDUNLOP:TL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760057-0696
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760246/aaaabokj.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <30 AUG 2004 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GLIGA VISIT: DISCUSSIONS OF EMIGRATION
TAGS: EEW, PFOR, CVIS, RO, US, IS, (GLIGA, VASILE)
To: BUCHAREST
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006